

road to death. Out, out, brief candle. Life's but a walking shadow—a poor player that stints and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury signifying nothing."

Do you ask, "Does God not send afflictions and trials upon us to break the ties which bind us to the earth? It is to be seriously doubted—we have no doubts whatever—whether God ever strives "to break the ties that bind us to the earth." The effort is certainly made to teach us the true meaning of life; and if sorrow and trouble do no more than produce distaste of life and longing for rest, they have failed altogether in their purpose. Few things tend to help us to see life in its true meaning and use it for its true ends like trial and suffering, providing that there are endured in an attitude of faith. The person so afflicted is, however, not to turn in bitter distaste from the labors of life, but to enter into them with fuller and more self-consecrated vigor, and so become possessor of the world in a true Christ-like way. If we are called to surrender ourselves and all that we possess to God, it is that God may give us back our possessions to be used for him, and this in the end bring to those who so use their possessions, the richest and deepest satisfaction.

If your life in the past has been marked by failures, turn away from those failures in repentance, and fix your thoughts and your energies on the goal which lies in the future. Failure in the past should not induce idleness and despondency, but should awaken high resolution to give such meaning to the remaining years that the past may be redeemed. Many a day made dreary by clouds and rain has been made altogether beautiful to us by the sudden and unlooked-for glory which broke over the world as the sun drew near his setting; and we have for years recalled that day to mind with no thoughts but those of delight, for the splendor of the sunset has for us redeemed the whole day. And many a misused life has been so transfigured by the nobility of its later years, that the past has been blotted out forever, fairly hidden from sight by the glory which shone forth in the end.

The future awaits us; it is a future for every one, old and young, good and bad,—if rightly used,—of hope and promise. The past is dead. Do not keep it alive with sorrow and regret. Over old battlefields the plowshare often turns up a skull of the slain, or some relic of the awful carnage. Turn not up with the plowshare of your memory the dead sins of the dead past, the mistakes of life, its bitterness and grief. Let those hideous things lie still in their graves. Go forward in penitence and in faith, hoping, trusting, rejoicing in the Lord, to make this New Year now at our doors, and all the New Years that are to come precious by noble, heroic, loving service.—Reformed Church Messenger.

Missions

Weekly Report of the Chicago Church Fund

Amount previously reported,	\$1343 35
Zourie L. Saylor, Morrill, Kan.,	25 00
State Mission Board of California,	5 20
I. D. Rippetoe, Grottos, Va.,	2 00
Willis V. Polk, Burlington, Ind.,	5 00
Brethren church, Warsaw, Ind.,	5 00
Mrs. J. W. Domer, North Manchester, Ind.,	5 00
Brethren church, Oakville, Ind.,	25 00
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hannan, Moline, Ill.,	5 00
B. F. Rouch and wife, Bremen, Ind.,	2 00
Albert and Emma Evans, Eaton, Ind.,	10 00

Total, \$1432 55

Brethren, the report is before you, not being half of the necessary amount to make settlement on January 1, when settlement must be made or the money we have paid on account forfeited. At this time I do not know what the outcome will be, but, of course, expect to be able to temporarily borrow sufficient money to secure the property. This will occasion much anxiety and extra trouble to your executive officers, for which there is not a shade of excuse. The Brethren church has the money to pay the needed amount without one of its members denying himself a spoonful of sugar to sweeten his coffee. You know such to be the facts, and God knows it.

Where are the great number of one dollar contributors that were so evident in a previous canvass? Scarcely any one thought it worth while to send in a dollar.

Well, we must continue these appeals until the three thousand dollars are raised and the temporary loans repaid. If you are tired of them you can stop them in one week's time, and thus relieve the Board from burden and anxiety, your own conscience from guilt, and honor God and His Christ as you ought to do; and, besides all this, have a part in the reward for the souls that will be saved thru the Chicago church during the years to come.

What personal honor and good can it be to you if every dollar of the purchase price is paid and the Chicago church grows strong and influential if you have not personally contributed to that end?

Now, brethren, I am not theorizing, but we are facing a crisis that must be met or the church suffer loss and disgrace. What will you do about it?

I shall continue to issue weekly reports until this matter is disposed of.

JACOB C. CASSELL,
Secretary.

Chicago Mission

This is the holiday week, and is a week of rush and extraordinary business activity in the mercantile world, and expectation on the part of the children. Wednesday night, Christmas evening, witnessed the best Christmas service ever held by the Mission. One hundred and fifty treats were required to go round for the children of the Mission this year, and then we could not supply quite all. All were interested and seemed happy, including the parents and friends. Tho it was a rainy night, and the streets were slush and mud, the attendance was good. Some of the members and children were kept home on account of sickness. Brother Stridiron's family being among the afflicted. The two little girls are quite sick as an after result of Diphtheria. They have the sympathy of all our little flock in their bereavement in the loss of little Willie, and the sickness of the two daughters.

We acknowledge with joy the receipt of a box from friends at Waterloo, Ia., and a barrel from friends at Milledgeville, Ill., containing reminders that we are not forgotten at the Christmas time. Also a box from somewhere in Indiana, the Express Co. could not tell us where, and we had no letter informing us who sent it. It contained clothing for which we are thankful, and we express the thanks of those to whom the things are given, for they were appreciated. We heartily thank all our friends for their kindly remembrances, and help in the work here, and you are not forgotten in our prayers. Every feature of the work is promising, and the church will never regret the expense incurred in founding a work here. Pray for us.

OUR CHURCH PROPERTY

Only a few days remain in which to prepare to make settlement for our church property here, and our worthy and hard-worked secretary informs me that there has not been sufficient sent in to enable the board to settle on the plan agreed on, and of course this is a source of worry. I notice that all our brethren who have seen our property and the work here, and know for themselves the value and need of the property in the work, are zealous and active in raising money with which to close the deal. That speaks well. It shows that the step in acquiring the property does not rest alone on the judgment of your missionary here, but has the sanction of all who have looked into the work. Now will not our brethren every where take steps immediately to help us. Do not let this all rest on the shoulders of those men you have placed on your Missionary Board. A recent communication from Fall City Neb., informs me that that congregation will raise more than \$150 00 for the church property, and that it is in addition to contributions for the support of the work in October of more than a hundred dollars. Many congregations could do as well, and not miss it in a month. May God bless his people spiritually as he has temporarily.

J. O. TALLEY.

1080 West Polk St., Chicago, Ill.

Among the Churches

Spiritual Gleanings

On December 10 we closed a three weeks' meeting at Loree, Indiana. We had beautiful weather all thru the meeting except one evening was very dark and rainy. This was our sixth protracted meeting at Loree, and take it all thru I think we had the best attendance we ever had, and there seemed to be a deep interest, the very best order prevailed, and everybody seemed to come to hear.

Sister Pearl Creager was with us the last week of the meeting and led the singing which added much to the interest of the meeting, and yet it may seem strange there was only one accession to the church. But some little troubles arose that we think hindered the success of the meetings in accessions. But it is all settled up and peace abounds, and we live in hopes that the seed that was sown may bring forth fruit, if not an hundred then sixty or thirty fold. I am now at College